

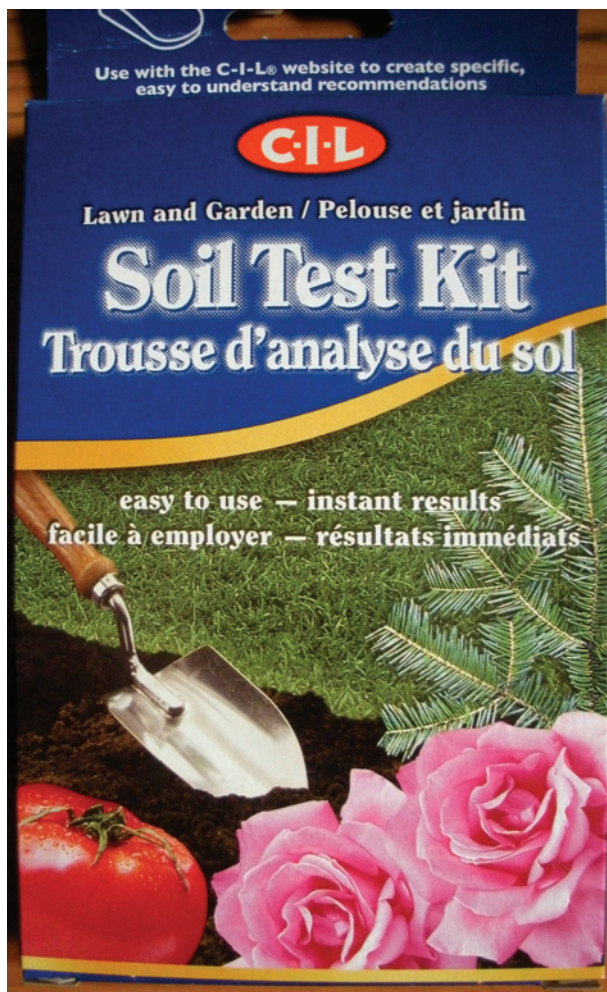
If you need to fertilize your lawn,  
use fertilizers with no phosphorus.  
Look for a zero in the middle  
(4-0-12)!



Lawns typically do not require added phosphorus (second digit). Phosphorus helps the development of the root matrix. Please choose fertilizers without phosphorus!

Potassium (third digit) helps your lawn survive the winter and provides resistance to insects. It is rarely missing in the soil. **If you have any concerns about the health of your lawn, there are evaluation kits on the market to measure pH, nutrient and organic matter concentrations.**

If you need to fertilize, apply the dosage in 3 to 5 very small applications when the grass is actively growing. The best time to apply fertilizers is therefore in the spring and in the summer. Never apply fertilizers before or during heavy rainfall episodes because the nutrients will be washed directly into the waterways.



## References

Website CIL : [www.soiltest.ca](http://www.soiltest.ca)

Website CBM : <http://baiemissisquoi.esm.qc.ca>

References are from the Centre de Références en Agriculture et Agroalimentaire du Québec, 1<sup>st</sup> edition (2003), 294 pages.

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Version française disponible à : <http://baiemissisquoi.esm.qc.ca>



Tips for a  
green lawn  
and a  
healthy lake





## Fertilizers can be hazardous to the health of waterways and lakes

Excessive phosphorus and other nutrients found in fertilizers promote the development of algae, aquatic plants and cyanobacteria in water, particularly in shallow lakes. Many species of cyanobacteria produce toxins that can be harmful to human health and domestic pets. Here are some helpful tips on how to minimize the inputs of phosphorus in our lakes and rivers.



# Upkeep of our lawns

## Mowing the buffer zones:

The vegetation on the shoreline helps keep the soil in place and reduce the amount of sediments and phosphorus that leach into the water. It is highly recommended not to mow the lawn, or to reduce the frequency of mowing, within 10 meters of the shoreline. Maintaining the lawn at a height of 8 cm (3 inches) in this buffer zone is highly recommended.

## Staying green with natural fertilization

Mulched grass clippings and dead leaves are natural fertilizers. When decomposing, the leaves release nutrients into the soil that can contribute to a healthy lawn. A small amount of grass cuttings and dead leaves applied at the beginning of the spring, can replace commercial fertilizers and compost. The simple actions of mowing and watering the lawn with the occasional addition of lime when necessary should be enough to keep your lawn healthy.

**BEWARE!** It is recommended to remove grass cuttings and dead leaves from within 10 meters of the shoreline because they contribute to the input of phosphorus into the lake!

## Most lawns do not need phosphorus, they just need a little bit of nitrogen

Fertilizer bags have three digits. Nitrogen (first digit) helps grass grow and keeps it green. Generally, a well maintained lawn and a good soil need 0.75 to 1.5 kg of nitrogen/100m<sup>2</sup> per year. Using the grass clippings can provide approximately 1 kg of nitrogen/100m<sup>2</sup>.

